



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,267	08/19/2003	Takahiro Imamura	2500.68258	4628

7590 10/14/2005

Patrick G. Burns, Esq.
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Dr.
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

BLOUIN, MARK S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2653

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/643,267	Applicant(s) IMAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark Blouin	Art Unit 2653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Examiner's Drawing</u> |

Art Unit: 2653

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

- The reply filed on August 22, was applied to the following effect: Claims 17-19 were cancelled and Claims 11 and 13 were amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imamura (USPN 6,359,752).
3. Regarding Claims 1 and 16, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), a head assembly comprising, a head suspension (30), a slider body (10) mounted on the head suspension, a slit (See Examiner's Drawing) defined in a trailing end surface of the slider body, the slit extending from a trailing end of the slider body toward a leading end of the slider body, a movable block (32) at least partly spaced from a stationary block (42) of the slider body by the slit, and a head element (43) mounted on a trailing end surface of the movable block.
4. Regarding Claim 2, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the slit defines an elongated plate (31) extending from the stationary block (42) to the movable block (32).
5. Regarding Claim 3, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the plate is kept in an attitude standing from a plane including a medium-opposed surface of the slider body (the plate (31) is perpendicular or vertical relative to the medium-opposed surface).

Art Unit: 2653

6. Regarding Claim 4, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the movable block (32) displaces in a direction perpendicular to a recording track (see arrow in Figure 3).

7. Regarding Claim 5, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, further comprising a microactuator (20) mounted on the trailing end surface of the slider body across the slit.

8. Regarding Claim 6, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein a rail (41b) is formed on a medium-opposed surface of the movable block (32), an air bearing surface being defined on the rail (Col 5, lines 63-67 and Col 6, lines 1-2).

9. Regarding Claim 7, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the slit defines an elongated plate (31) extending from the stationary block (42) to the movable block (32).

10. Regarding Claim 8, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the plate is kept in an attitude standing from a plane including a medium-opposed surface of the slider body (the plate (31) is perpendicular or vertical relative to the medium-opposed surface).

11. Regarding Claim 9, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the movable block displaces in a direction perpendicular to a recording track (see arrow in Figure 3).

12. Regarding Claim 10, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, further comprising a microactuator (20) mounted on the trailing end surface of the slider body across the slit.

13. Regarding Claim 11, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, comprising another slit defined in the trailing end surface of the slider body, the other slit extending from the trailing end of the slider body toward the leading end of the slider body, wherein the movable block (32) is defined between the slits (see Examiner's Drawing).

14. Regarding Claim 12, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the slit defines an elongated plate (31) extending from the stationary block (42) to the movable block (32).

Art Unit: 2653

15. Regarding Claim 13, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein a void is formed in the slider body, the void cooperating with the slit to define the elongated plates.

16. Regarding Claim 14, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the void includes a first gap extending between the slits so as to define a leading end of the movable block, and a pair of second gaps extending from opposite ends of the first gap toward the trailing end of the slider body, respectively, in parallel with the slits, the second gaps ending at positions spaced from the trailing end of the slider body (see Examiner's Drawing).

17. Regarding Claim 15, Imamura shows (Figs. 3-5), the head slider, wherein the second gaps extend from the opposite ends of the first gap toward the leading end of the slider body, respective, in parallel with the slits (see Examiner's Drawing).

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments filed August 22, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts on Page 9 :

"In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies a slit in FIG. 3 of Imamura as corresponding to the slits 35 of the present invention. However, the slit identified by the Examiner is not at the trailing end surface of the slider body..."

The Examiner maintains that the slit shown in the Examiner's Drawing clearly extends from the leading end to the trailing end on the slider body, and that part of the slit is considered to be at a trailing end surface. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-16 are upheld.

Conclusion

19. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

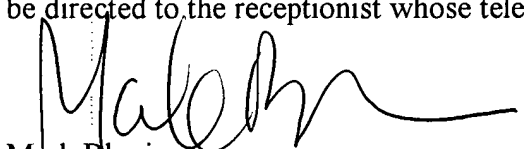
Art Unit: 2653

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached M-F, 6:00 am – 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached at (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653
October 6, 2005

A. J. HEINZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~2653~~ A. U. 2653

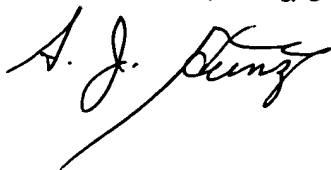
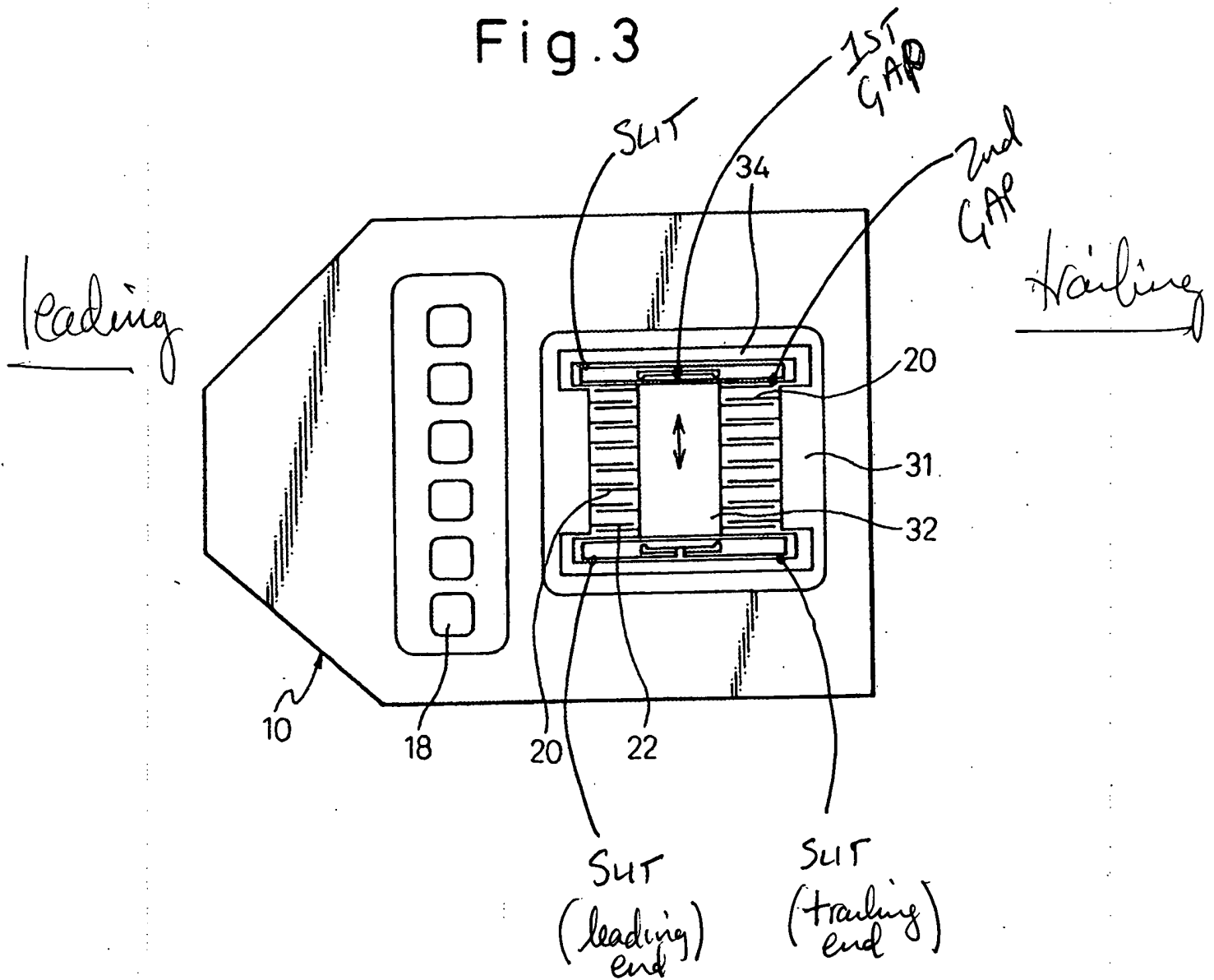


Fig.3



EXAMINER'S DRAWING